

A PRICELESS RAZVI GEM MUFTI SHOAIB RAZA

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The Excellence of The Ulama e Haq

The status of one who has been blessed with the knowledge of Deen and becomes and Aalim e Deen is well. The Ulama e Haq have been blessed with immense excellence and virtue from the Court of Almighty Allah. The Holy Qur'an has referred to the Ulama e Haq as the Allah-Fearing. The Holy Qur'an explains their excellence either explicitly or in a suggestive manner.

Almighty Allah says,

إِنَّمَا يَخْشَى اللّٰهَ مِنْ عِبَادِهِ الْعُلَمٰٓؤُا

'Only those from amongst the servants of Allah who possess knowledge, (truly) fear Him'. [Surah 35 Verse 28]

يَرْفَعِ اللّٰهُ الَّذِيْنَ اٰمَنُوْا مِنْكُمْ ۙ وَ الَّذِيْنَ اُوْتُوا الْعِلْمَ دَرَجٰتٍ

'Allah will exalt amongst you, those who believe, and those who have been granted knowledge'. [Surah 58 Verse 11]

It has been mentioned as follows regarding the Ulama e Haq in the Hadith Shareef:

Sayyiduna Rasoolullah ﷺ said,

'The Excellence of an Aalim over an Aabid (ordinary worshipper) is like my excellence over the most humble of you (i.e. the lowest of you)'.

After this, Rasoolullah ﷺ said**,**

'Allah ta'aala and all the Angels, and all those in the skies and the earth, even the ants inside their holes and the fish desire goodness for a person who teaches good things to the people'. [Tirmizi]

Hazrat Allama Mufti Shoaib Raza Naeemi Alaihir Rahma was indeed from amongst the Ulama e Haq, and one who strived with sincerity and devotion for the pleasure of Almighty Allah and His Beloved Rasool ﷺ.

He was kind to the believers and firm and harsh against the deviants and all bud-mazhabs. When they challenged the Ahle Sunnat, he always responded and accepted their challenges, but they never had the courage to face him in a public debate.

Hazrat Mufti Shoaib Raza Naeemi

Hazrat Allama Mufti Mohammad Shoaib Raza Alaihir Rahma was a great Aalim e Deen, and was also blessed with being one of the Sons in law of the Qutbul Aqtaab Huzoor Sayyidi Taajush Shariah رضی اللہ عنہ.

Hazrat Allama Mufti Shoaib Raza Alaihir Rahma hailed from a noble family and married into the family of Sayyidi Aala Hazrat رضی اللہ عنہ, when he was blessed with the honour of marrying one of the beloved daughters of Huzoor Sayyidi Taajush Shariah رضی اللہ عنہ.

His Birth

Mufti Shoaib Alaihir Rahma was born on the 27th of October 1974 co-inciding with 10 Shawwal 1394 Hijri.

His Islamic birthday was a sign of his spiritual connection to Sayyidi Aala Hazrat Imam Ahmed Raza Khan رضی اللہ عنہ as Aala Hazrat رضی اللہ عنہ was born on the 10 Shawwal 1272 Hijri.

A True Well-wisher

Hazrat Mufti Shoaib Alaihir Rahma was a very simple, humble and loving person. I had known him for many years. Even though I was older than him by two years, I regarded him as my senior and a mentor, due to his connection to my Murshid Huzoor Sayyidi Taajush Shariah رضی اللہ عنہ and further due to his in-depth knowledge, piety and simplicity.

He in turn regarded me as his close friend and a confidant and would spend hours talking to me on the telephone at night. He journeyed to South Africa for many years during the Urs e Noori Amjadi which we host, and stayed at my home whenever he visited. He was indeed a true well-wisher.

His Meticulous Routine

He would refuse to sleep in the room I would arrange for him at my house, and he would rather sleep on a bed in my library, so that he could have access to my library. He showed immense love to my children and my entire family respected him dearly.

He was very particular and meticulous with regards to his daily routine. I watched him carefully for many years when he would honour me by residing at my humble home in Durban. After Fajr Salaah he would immediately sit down to make Tilaawat of the Holy Qur'an, followed by recitation of his daily litanies which included Dalaa'il ul Khayraat Shareef.

His Zest For Knowledge

He would then go into my library and spend most of his day in the company of books. He loved to learn and teach and was blessed with profound knowledge and wisdom at such a young age. He would refuse to sleep in a private room which I had arranged for him, but would rather sleep on a sleeper couch in my library so that he could have access to the Kitaabs at his leisure.

At a young age he was blessed with immense knowledge and acumen, and studied at the renowned Jamia Naeemia in Muradabad. He qualified with distinctions and was also a prolific writer and orator. Huzoor Sayyidi Taajush Shariah رضی اللہ عنہ loved him dearly.

In the Company of Huzoor Taajush Shariah

He journeyed on many trips abroad and in India in the company of Huzoor Taajush Shariah رضی اللہ عنہ. He stole the hearts of people wherever he went. People were amazed at him being the son in law of such a great personality, and being such a knowledgeable personality, but was still so humble and simple. His lectures were amazing and his firmness on Maslak e Aala Hazrat was admirable. He showed immense love for the Ulama and kindness and compassion to the general public.

His lectures were filled with gems of knowledge and wisdom. He had profound love and respect for Huzoor Sayyidi Taajush Shariah رضی اللہ عنہ and would often speak to me about the Maqaam and the excellence of Huzoor Taajush Shariah رضی اللہ عنہ. Huzoor Sayyidi Sarkaar Taajush Shariah رضی اللہ عنہ also loved him dearly.

I remember during one program after Mufti Shoaib Raza Alaihir Rahma delivered a lecture, Huzoor Sayyidi Taajush Shariah رضی اللہ عنہ said, **'It is essential for you to act upon what Maulana Shoaib Raza has said about Maslak e Aala Hazrat and about my Pious Predecessors, and you should embed his words into your heart.'**

This alone showed the confidence and the love which Huzoor Taajush Shariah رضی اللہ عنہ had for him.

His dream was to prepare qualified Aalim students to specialise in in-depth research on the sciences of Hadith Shareef. The Ulama loved him so dearly that they regarded him as their Gate to Huzoor Sayyidi Taajush Shariah رضی اللہ عنہ. It was on his request that Huzoor Sayyidi Taajush Shariah رضی اللہ عنہ translated and wrote explanations to many of the books of Huzoor Sayyidi Aala Hazrat Imam Ahle Sunnat Imam Ahmed Raza Khan رضی اللہ عنہ.

As I said earlier, he had profound love and respect for Huzoor Sayyidi Taajush Shariah رضی اللہ عنہ, and not just as his father in-law, but as his Murshid and his Qibla of Spiritual Devotion. He would often say, **'How Should A Peer Be? A Peer (Shaykh) Should Be Like Taajush Shariah'.** Indeed he loved Huzoor Taajush Shariah رضی اللہ عنہ from the depths of his heart.

His Love For Huzoor Taajush Shariah

He also dearly loved Huzoor Sayyidi Muhad'dith e Kabeer Hafizahullah as he knew that Huzoor Muhad'dith e Kabeer was beloved to Huzoor Sayyidi Taajush Shariah رضی اللہ عنہ. When I had written the book 'The Miracle of Raza' on the life of Huzoor Sayyidi Taajush Shariah رضی اللہ عنہ I requested him to say a few words about Huzoor Sayyidi Taajush Shariah رضی اللہ عنہ. I am including here what he had written.

He wrote:

My Deeni brother Hazrat Maulana Muhammad Afthab Cassim Razvi مدظلہ القوی is a steadfast, practicing, pious Aalim e Deen. He is very firm on the path of Maslak e Aala Hazrat. He is presently working in many countries where English is spoken. He has translated to date numerous books into the English language, especially the Urdu encyclopaedia of Hanafi Fiqh 'Bahaar e Shariat,' which he has translated into simple English, and in doing so, he has done a great favour upon the Ummat e Muslima Ahle Sunnat wa Jama'at. May Almighty Allah bless him with a blessed reward. The love for the pious predecessors is immersed in Maulana's inner self, especially that of Imam e Ahle Sunnat wa Jama'at, Aala Hazrat ﷺ in whose love, personality and Maslak, he is immersed.

He has immense love for the personality who is the inheritor of the Knowledge, and who is the custodian of the blessings of Aala Hazrat in this era, and who is his true and rightful Successor, (in other words), Murshid e Barhaq Huzoor Taajush Shariah Mufti Mohammad Akhtar Raza Khan Qaadiri Razvi.

Maulana is the mureed of Huzoor Taajush Shariah رضی اللہ عنہ and has been blessed with Khilaafat and Ijaazat from the Shaykh. Maulana has compiled and presented a bouquet of tributes in the love of his Murshid and the Leader of the Ahle Sunnat, Huzoor Taajush Shariah رضی اللہ عنہ, and he has requested me to also add few fragrant flowers to this beautiful bouquet.

As a humble servant of this exalted court, who has no real foresight or experience, or even the capability of how to really hold a pen, or the ability to write, but still I will place my trust in the Mercy of Allah and His Rasool ﷺ and will attempt with broken words to say something with regards to the blessed personality who is being discussed. It is mentioned, **'One, who loves something, praises it in abundance.'**

Hence, taking the support of this statement and knowing that the love for the beloveds of Allah, in reality is love for Allah, I will mention a few words.

Almighty Allah says,

وَمَنْ يُّؤْتَ الْحِكْمَةَ فَقَدْ اُوْتِيَ خَيْرًا كَثِيْرًا

'And the one, who has been blessed with wisdom, has been blessed with abundant goodness.' [Al Baqarah (2), Verse 269]

The Beloved Rasool ﷺ says,

مَنْ يُّرِدِ اللّٰهُ بِهٖ خَ يُّفَقِّهْهُ فِي الدِّيْنِ

'If Allah Wills to bestow someone with special virtue; He makes him a Faqih of the Religion' (i.e. he blesses him with the understanding of Deen). [Bukhari, Muslim, Mishkaat]

It is further mentioned that, **'When Almighty Allah Wills anything, He says 'Be' and it 'Becomes'.'**

Blessed are those personalities who have been blessed with Wisdom and true understanding and perception of Deen. Allah willed to bestow special virtue upon them, so he blessed them with the understanding of Deen.

Amongst these blessed personalities is Huzoor Taajush Shariah, Sayyidi wa Murshidi Allama Faqihun Nafs Mufti Mohammed Akhtar Raza Khan Qaadiri Azhari رضی اللہ عنہ.

As per tradition and based on formally attaining his education, Huzoor Taajush Shariah رضی اللہ عنہ acquired his education at the world renowned Darul Uloom Manzar e Islam in Bareilly Shareef and then journeyed to Al Azhar University to further his studies in Arabic. However, the true blessings and spiritual insight, he attained from Taajedaar e Ahle Sunnat Huzoor Mufti e Azam Hind نوراللہ مرقدہ.

Huzoor Taajush Shariah رضی اللہ عنہ himself says that, **'I got very little time in the blessed company of Huzoor Mufti e Azam Hind رضی اللہ عنہ, but whatever I am is because of the Faizaan of Huzoor Mufti e Azam رضی اللہ عنہ.'**

This alone shows that Huzoor Taajush Shariah رضی اللہ عنہ attributes all his success to Ghaus ul Waqt Huzoor Mufti e Azam Hind رضی اللہ عنہ and he shows his honour in being connected to Huzoor Mufti e Azam Hind رضی اللہ عنہ.

After completion of his formal studies, Hazrat taught at the world-renowned Madrassa Manzar e Islam, and went on to become the Principal of the Madrassa. After this, he entered the world of propagation and oration, and till today even with his health conditions, he is travelling the globe serving the Ummah. I pray that Almighty Allah keeps us always in the shade of Huzoor Taajush Shariah رضی اللہ عنہ and blesses us all with firmness on Maslak e Aala Hazrat.

I have written this brief article during my journey to Malawi, while visiting brother Shiraz Abdul Majid and then brothers Mohammed Mussa and Moshin Mussa in Limbe, and I have completed the final words at the home of Brother Luqman Aziz. Allah bless all of them and all of us with the blessings of Huzoor Taajush Shariah. Aameen.

[This ends the article which Mufti Shoaib Raza Alaihir Rahma penned in the love of Huzoor Taajush Shariah رضی اللہ عنہ]

His Humility & Simplicity

Even though he was the son-in-law of the Qutbul Aqtaab of the Era, he had no pride and arrogance, but rather he was a humble and simple man. He showed immense love to the Ulama and loved knowledge. Hazrat Allama Mufti Shoaib Raza Alaihir Rahma was beloved to all those who knew him well.

He would go out of his way to assist his fellow Sunnis and would leave no stone unturned in this regard. He was indeed loved by the general public, but more than that he was loved and respected by the Ulama.

He showed immense love and respect towards the Ulama and always encouraged good work which was done for Sunniyat. Being the son-in-law of Sayyidi Taajush Shariah Rahbar e Tariqat Hazrat Allama Mufti Mohammed Akhtar Raza رضی اللہ عنہ, he lived in the manner prescribed for such a position.

He would always tell us to be loyal to Huzoor Taajush Shariah رضی اللہ عنہ and to Huzoor Muhad'dith e Kabeer Hafizahullah. He taught that the love of both these blessed personalities is love and loyalty to Sayyidi Aala Hazrat رضی اللہ عنہ .

Indeed Mufti Shoaib Raza Alaihir Rahma was a Priceless Razvi Gem. We were fortunate to admire, honour, and understand his beauty in his short yet unforgettable worldly life. I still remember my last meeting with him in Bareilly Shareef.

His Love & Kindness

Whenever I would go to Bareilly Shareef, he would come to the Azhari Guest house, which is today the Mazaar Shareef of Huzoor Taajush Shariah رضی اللہ عنہ , and he would spend lengthy hours with me, talking about the Masha’ikh and discussing numerous Deeni issues.

I still remember our last meeting in Bareilly Shareef after he had invited me for dinner. He even gave me Nazraana that year, and I tried to refuse, but he insisted. It was as if he knew that we would not meet again.

His Final Illness

He suddenly became severely ill in 2017 and his health deteriorated over the months. A few days before he passed away, he got Khalid Bhai of Delhi to call me while he was hospitalised in Delhi, and we shared some words. I asked him permission, so that I may journey to India, and he refused by saying, just make Dua for, I do not wish for you to see me like this.

The 15th of Ramadaan 1438

If I go to sleep in the month of Ramadaan for a few hours, I usually wake up about forty-five minutes before Fajr so that I can have some Sehri and the pray Fajr Salaah.

That night, I was very restless and could not sleep. On the morning of the 15th of Ramadaan co-inciding with the 11th of June 2017, I suddenly woke up very early, much earlier than usual. I performed Wudu and sat in my lounge and started reciting the Holy Qur'an and this was not my normal time for recitation, but I just felt that I should recite the Qur'an. A few minutes later I noticed my wife also coming into the lounge saying she is unable to sleep and she too sat down to recite the Holy Qur'an.

As I recited the Holy Qur’an I thought I had heard someone whisper in my ears, that Mufti Shoaib Raza is leaving this world. I assumed I was imagining, and shook off the thought and continued reciting the Qur’an.

I made Sehri, prayed Fajr and had just gone to rest, when I received the message of his passing away from Khalid Bhai in Delhi. I was shattered, and reflected on the voice which I heard when reciting the Holy Qur’an.

Later on when I calculated the time of his passing, it worked out to be roughly around the time when I heard the voice saying that he was about to leave this world. It is a moment that will live with me forever.

His Passing From This World

By the Will of Allah, after a lengthy illness on the 11th of June 2017 co-inciding with 15th Ramadaan 1438, he left this physical world to travel into the hereafter.

His Noble Wife and Huzoor Qaa-id e Millat Huzoor Asjad Raza Khan Qaadiri Hafizahullah were at his bedside when he left this world. After his passing away Huzoor Asjad Raza became a pillar of strength to his family.

His passing away had an immense effect on the health of Huzoor Sayyidi Taajush Shariah رضی اللہ عنہ. Approximately one year and one month after his passing away, Huzoor Sayyidi Taajush Shariah رضی اللہ عنہ journeyed into the hereafter.

My heart says that Mufti Shoaib Raza Alaihir Rahma is serving Huzoor Sayyidi Taajush Shariah رضی اللہ عنہ in Jannat, taking his blessings in the hereafter.

On The 15th of Ramadaan Our Mufti Shoaib Entered Heaven
I am Sure He is With Taajush Shariah, Serving Him in Heaven

Hence, Sunday, the 15th of Ramadaan 1438 co-inciding with the 11th of June 2017 is a day which will remain in our hearts forever. It was a day when what we never really expected, happened.

Our beloved and compassionate Hazrat Allama Maulana Mufti Mohammed Shoaib Raza Qaadiri Razvi Naeemi Alaihir Rahma left this world to journey towards the Special Mercy of Allah.

We all knew well that he had been very ill, but never did we think that this wonderful kind-hearted savant would leave us so soon. It was a day when hearts were shattered and eyes wept in the love of a personality who was a people's person. He was a man of knowledge, wisdom, piety and compassion.

He Still Lives in Our Hearts

Hazrat Allama Mufti Shoaib Alaihir Rahma has journeyed away from us, but his love, kindness, compassion, gentleness, firmness, elegance, eloquence, and Imaan refreshing words of wisdom, shall live in our hearts forever. Even the great Ulama loved him dearly and continued to remember him. Till this day when we talk about him in the presence of Huzoor Sayyidi Muhad'dith e Kabeer, he says, **'He was my dear friend'**.

Hazrat Mufti Shoaib Raza Alaihir Rahma left behind his Noble Wife who is the daughter of Huzoor Sayyidi Taajush Shariah رضی اللہ عنہ and their three children; Hazrat Hamzah Raza, Nawaar Faatima and Bahjat Faatima.

Allah bless them all and keep them well always, and I pray that the young Hazrat Hamzah Raza follows in the footsteps of his father's steadfastness, kindness and wisdom.

His Mazaar Shareef

The Mazaar Shareef of Mufti Shoaib Raza Alaihir Rahma is located at the City Qabrastan at the feet of Sayyidi Aala Hazrat's رضی اللہ عنہ father, Hazrat Allama Mufti Naqi Ali Khan Qaadiri رضی اللہ عنہ and the other great and blessed personalities of Sayyidi Aala Hazrat's رضی اللہ عنہ Family. May Allah shower rains of Mercy upon his Blessed Grave always.

Our Beloved Mufti Shoaib Raza

Written in 2017 on The Wisaal of Mufti Shoaib Raza

Our Beloved Mufti Shoaib Raza has journeyed to Heaven
On the 15th of Ramadaan he entered the Blissful Garden

His True Love for Allah and His Rasool ﷺ was very clear and open,
His passing away in Ramadaan Shareef, is indeed a blessed token

He was Firm in His Imaan, and against the Deviants he was outspoken,
His steadfastness and Deeni Determination, always remained Unbroken

As a Soldier of Ghauth o Khwaja Raza, Mufti Shoaib remained unshaken
Like pieces of shattered glass before him, was every deviant broken

As a Glowing Lamp of Maslak e Aala Hazrat, our hearts he did brighten,
With his vigour, steadfastness, and valour, our Spirits he did heighten

His loyalty to Taajush Shariah and Muhad'dith Kabeer will never be forgotten
His firm stance during the most testing times, will never be forgotten

A Superb Orator, A Devoted Teacher, A prolific writer with a 'golden' pen,
His words touched many hearts, causing those in slumber to finally awaken

His Deep Knowledge and Understanding, would always Enlighten,
Even The Ulama Acknowledged his Insight, and his amazing Acumen

His Sincere Love and supportive nature, shall never be forgotten,
His lessons of Compassion and Kindness shall never be forsaken

With His Smile and His Kind gestures, so many lives he did brighten
With His Support an Encouragement, so many did he Strengthen

To Sayyidi Taajush Shariah, his Respected Family, and to his beloved Children,
May Allah grant you all patience, and by your virtue may we be forgiven

Afthab! You have lost a Mentor, a True Friend, a Brother, a Gentlemen,
He has journeyed into the hereafter, leaving you weeping and heartbroken